

PLATTSBURGH AIR FORCE BASE,
HEATING FACILITY
(Plattsburgh Air Force Base, Building No. 2658)
New York Road
Plattsburgh
Clinton County
New York

HAER No. NY-326-CE

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD

National Park Service
Northeast Region
Philadelphia Support Office
U.S. Custom House
200 Chestnut Street
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19106

HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD

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HAER No. NY-326-CE

Location: New York Road, Plattsburgh, Clinton County, New York.

UTM: 18.622600,4944000
Quad: Plattsburgh, NY-VT, 1:24,000 (1966)

Date of Construction: 1956

Architect/Engineer: Unknown

Present Owner: United States Air Force

Present Use: Vacant

Significance: Building No. 2658 housed an oil-fired boiler system that provided steam-heat throughout the base.

Project Information: Building No. 2658 at Plattsburgh AFB is being documented in accordance with HAER standards to mitigate for the potential adverse effects of transferring deed of title to the property from federal ownership. The property transfer is a result of the disposal and reuse of Plattsburgh AFB, pursuant to the Defense Base Closure and Realignment Act of 1993. The mitigation is a stipulation of a Programmatic Agreement (PA) among the U.S. Air Force, the New York State Historic Preservation Officer, and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (October 2000).

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Summary Description of Heating Facility (Building No. 2658)

Layout

Building No. 2658 is a 25,144 square-foot, reinforced concrete block building clad in insulated panels. It is a multi-volume space, with its cubic footage being greatly disproportionate to its square footage, due to the high ceilings. It is irregular in plan, with the main section measuring 92 feet 4 inches by 85 feet. There is a wing measuring 37 feet by 92 feet 4 inches that was added in 1958. Building No. 2658 has one-story, concrete block offsets on its east, west and north facades. North, south and west facades of the main building have three vertically-oriented, ribbon window panels composed of factory sash units; the center panels are three window units wide and are flanked by panels that are two window units wide. The main building has a flat roof; the west section of the building has a three-story penthouse with four metal smokestacks capped with metal screens. The main building has two smoke stacks.

Within the interior of the building is housed the various equipment units necessary to the generation of steam-heat, including the delivery piping grid (Photo NY-326-CE-8), electrical generators and switch panels (Photo NY-326-CE-9), oil-fired boiler (Photo NY-326-CE-10), boiler unit (Photo NY-326-CE-11), diesel generator unit (Photo NY-326-CE-12), and computerized, delivery switch panels (NY-326-CE-14).

Alterations/Additions

Other than the 1958 addition, there have been no other additions or alterations to Building No. 2658.

Function

Building No. 2658 was designed, built, and used to house steam-heat generating equipment. Supplies of fuel oil and diesel were delivered in tank cars to the PAFB vicinity via the Delaware and Hudson Rail Road. From there, a rail line spur allowed those cars to be moved directly to the east side of the building for off loading. Once steam heat had been generated, it was delivered to the various facilities on the base via a network of buried raceways and insulated delivery piping, ultimately controlled by switching panels housed within the building.

Significance

Plattsburgh AFB is located in a region known for its harsh, winter climate. Without facilities to generate heat for the various base facilities, buildings would have been unusable during the winter months, thus seriously compromising the Strategic Air Command (SAC) Cold War mission. Inasmuch as Building No. 2658 was responsible for keeping the base operational at all times, it was vital to the SAC mission.

Sources

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United States Air Force

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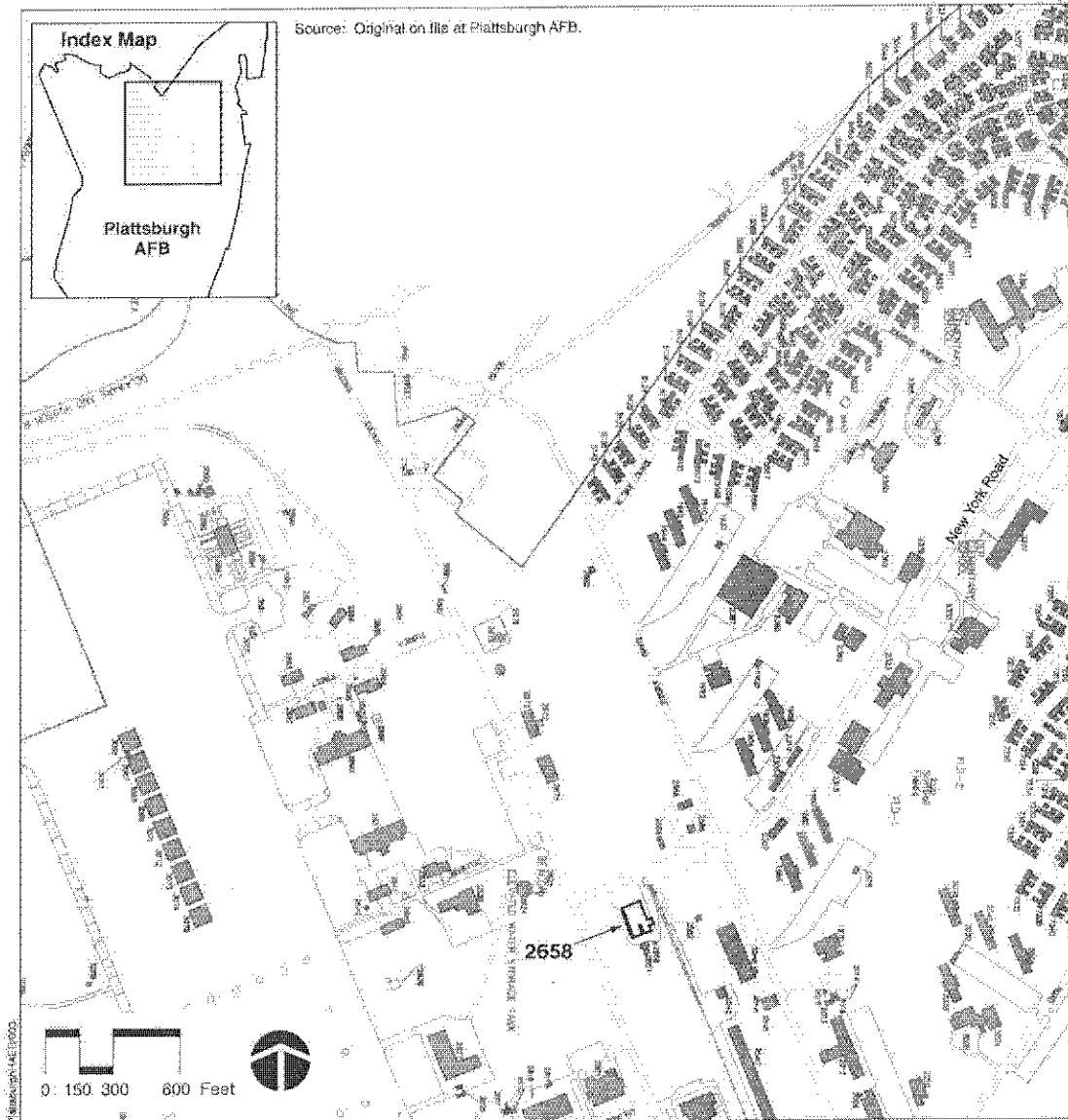
United States Air Force

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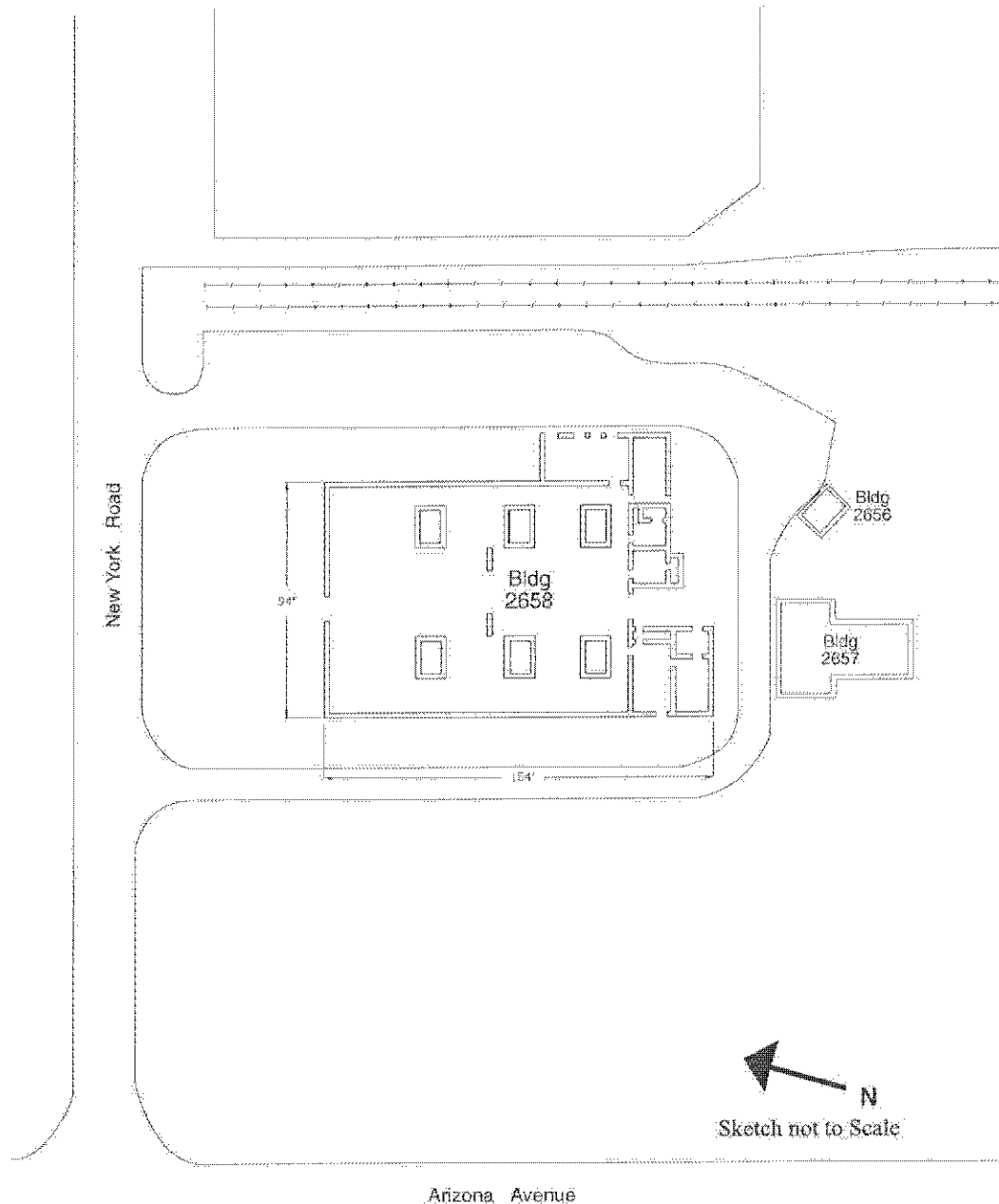
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PLATTSBURGH AIR FORCE BASE,
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HAER No. NY-326-CE
(Page 4)



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PLATTSBURGH AIR FORCE BASE,
HEATING FACILITY
(Plattsburgh Air Force Base, Building No. 2658)
HAER No. NY-326-CE
(Page 5)



SKETCH PLAN—HEATING FACILITY
(Plattsburgh Air Force Base, Building No. 2658)
(Source: Plattsburgh AFB CAD File, Prepared by the United States Air Force, ca. 2000)
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